

# TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



3

A Publishers Weekly Big Graphic Novels of 2010 Selection

# TWIN SPICA

3




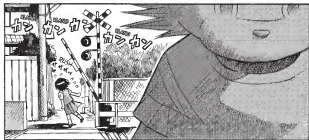
Kou Yaginuma



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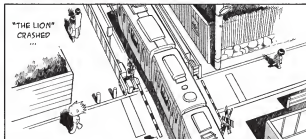




IF DAD WAS  
INVOLVED IN  
THE ACCIDENT...



THERE'S  
NO WAY I  
COULD ASK  
MR. LION



## MISSION:09





I DUNNO  
WHO WAS  
MISSING,



WHAT'RE  
YOU ALL

DOING IN  
HERE?!



YOUR  
OWN  
FUTURE  
OVER  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S!

YOU  
SHOULD  
MIND

BUT  
THAT'S NO  
EXCUSE TO  
SKIP THE  
PRACTICAL  
TRAINING!



IT'S  
FINE,

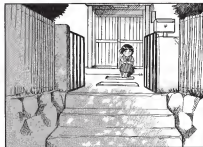
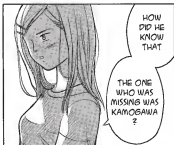
LET IT BE,  
MR. NISHIDA.



OW  
!!

GET  
YOUR  
HANDS  
OUTTA  
YOUR  
POCKETS  
!!





BUT HE'S  
NEVER SAID  
MUCH ELSE ABOUT  
HIS PAST.



DAD TOLD ME  
HE WAS A  
ROCKET  
ENGINEER,

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO?



WHAT IF  
WHAT THAT  
TEACHER  
SAID IS  
TRUE?

I OUGHT  
NOT TO GO TO  
OUTER SPACE?

DOES IT  
MEAN







DON'T  
YOU?



YOU STILL  
THINK  
ABOUT HER,



WELL, THAT'S A FANCY THING  
YOU'VE GOT, KID.









WHAT?  
REALLY?

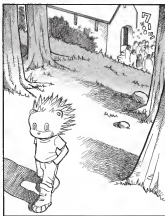
THAT'S MY  
FAVORITE  
SONG,  
TOO!

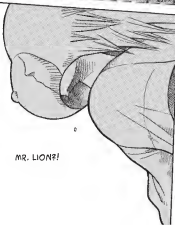
STOP  
CALLING ME  
TONE-DEAF!

I'LL ALSO BE  
TEACHING  
MUSIC TO  
GRADE SCHOOL  
KIDS!









MR. LION?!









YOU'D  
HAVE BEEN  
THE ONE AT  
THE CHURCH!

IF THERE  
WAS NO  
ACCIDENT

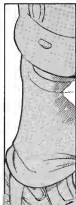


YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT SUCH  
THINGS.

HELP



I WAS  
PRE-  
PARED  
FOR THE  
WORST,  
ONCE I  
BECAME  
AN  
ASTRO-  
NAUT.



WHAT CAUSED  
IT TO CRASH.

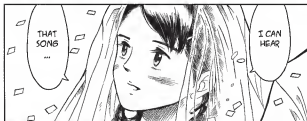
HONESTLY,  
NO ONE  
REALLY  
KNOWS

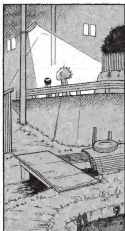


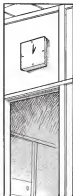


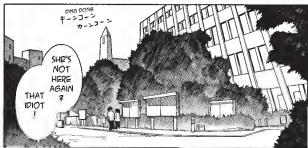








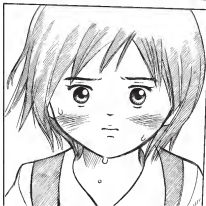
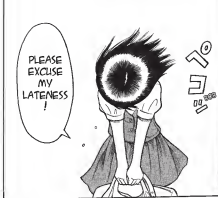




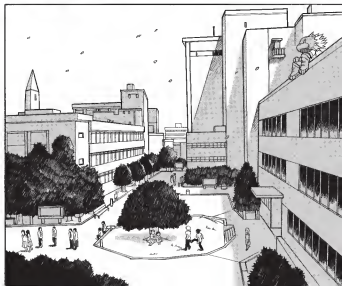




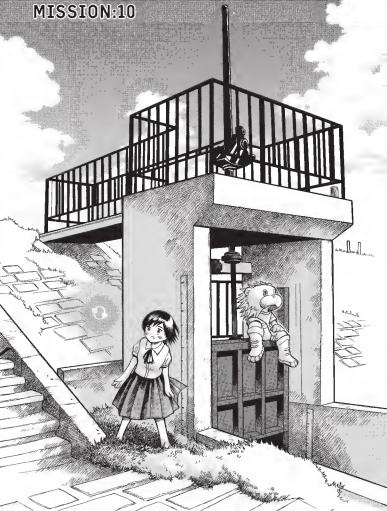








# MISSION:10

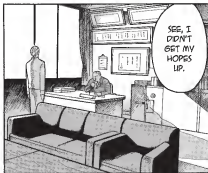




NO,  
I'M  
SORRY



SO DID  
YOU GET  
THAT STUDENT  
TO QUIT  
YET?



SEE, I  
DIDN'T  
GET MY  
HOPES  
UP.



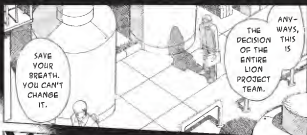
REALLY.

WELL,  
I  
DON'T  
MIND.

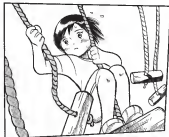
















ISN'T  
THAT THE  
POINT?

DO YOU  
FELL  
GOOD?

YAWN



PANT WHEEZE

EVEN SO,  
IF THEY  
KEEP  
THIS UP,

TONS OF  
KIDS WILL  
DROP OUT,  
I BET.



THAT NO  
MATTER HOW  
HARD IT GETS,  
WE AREN'T  
DROPPING OUT!

WE FOUR  
AT LEAST  
SHOULD  
PROMISE



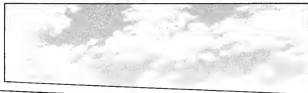
HUH?

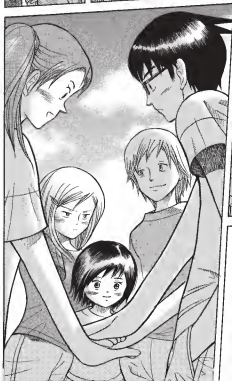
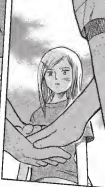
HEY,  
ASUMI.  
PROMISE  
ME.



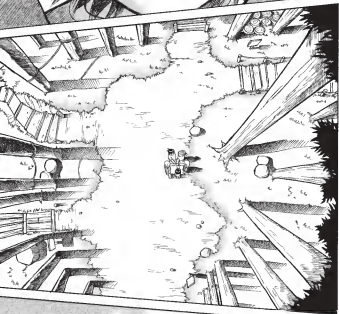
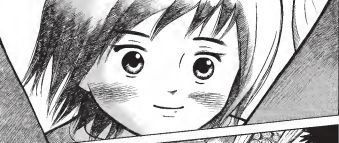
DON'T  
STOP COMING  
TO SCHOOL  
UNTIL WE'VE  
GRADUATED.





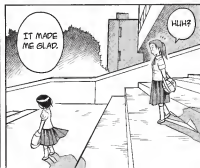


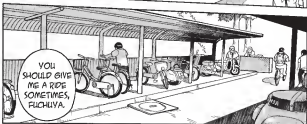


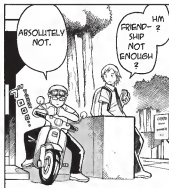


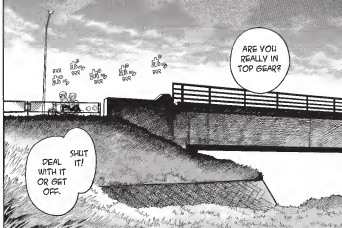
HEY,  
ASUMI?







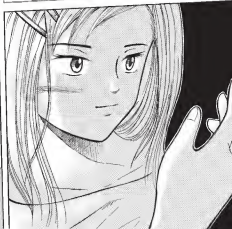








THIS IS AN  
INTERESTING  
NAME.







IT'S  
PRONOUNCED  
"UKITA."

UKITA?

YUP.



東京宇宙学校生徒名簿  
TOKYO SPACE  
SCHOOL STUDENT  
REGISTRY



IT'S LIKE SHE  
SIMPLY HAD  
TO BE AN  
ASTRONAUT.

UKITA—  
"MANY JOYS  
INSPIRED  
BY THE  
COSMOS."

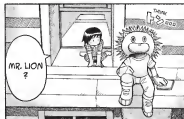


IS SHE  
YOUR  
FRIEND  
?



SHE'S  
REALLY  
PRETTY.

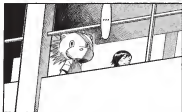
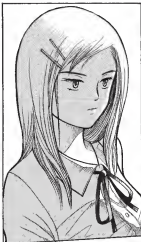
OH?

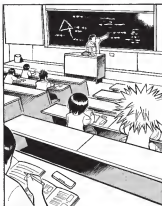


















YOUR  
SILENCE  
MAKES  
YOU SEEM  
PRETTY  
GUILTY!



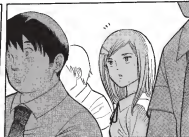
ASUMI'S  
NOT  
SAVING  
ANYTHING  
AT ALL!



I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
YOU  
WANT.  
I CAN'T  
ANSWER  
TO  
SOME-  
THING  
I DON'T  
RECALL



AND WHY  
ARE YOU  
COMING  
TO ME  
ABOUT  
KAMOGAWA  
?  
DID SHE  
SAY  
SOME-  
THING?



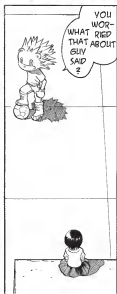
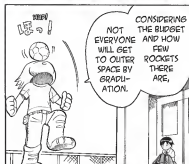
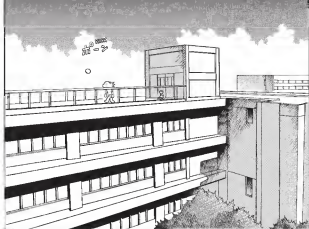






# MISSION:11







JOHN  
GLENN WAS  
77 WHEN HE  
WENT ON HIS  
2ND MISSION,  
Y'KNOW.



YOU KNEW  
THAT,  
RIGHT?

HE WAS THE  
1ST AMERICAN  
TO ORBIT  
THE EARTH,  
IN THE MERCURY  
ATLAS 6 MISSION  
OF 1962.



HE'S  
PRETTY OLD,  
YOU KNOW.

A RUSSIAN  
ASTRO-  
NAUT  
HAD HIS  
BIRTHDAY  
ON THE ISS.  
AND IN 2020,  
WHAT'S  
HIS NAME  
...



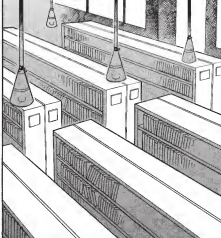
YOU'VE  
ALL GOT  
PLENTY OF  
TIME AHEAD  
OF YOU

WHAT  
I MEAN IS,  
YOU CAN GO  
UP THERE  
EVEN WHEN  
YOU'RE  
OLDER.

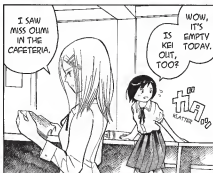
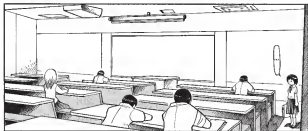
MR. LION,  
I...

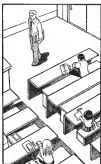
I GOTTA  
GET A  
BOOK  
FROM THE  
LIBRARY.

Jump



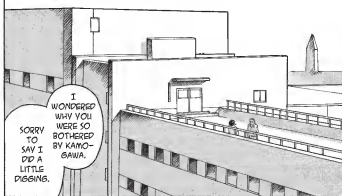






















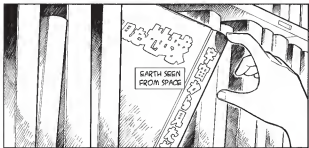




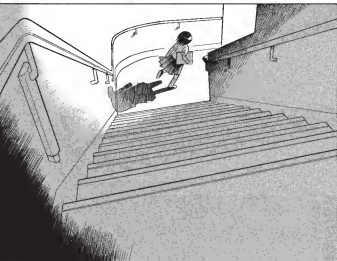
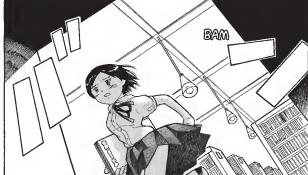


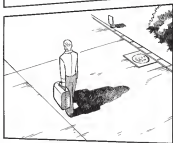




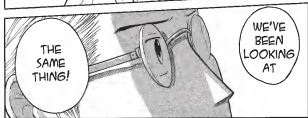














I WONDER  
WHY...



I WISH  
EVERYONE

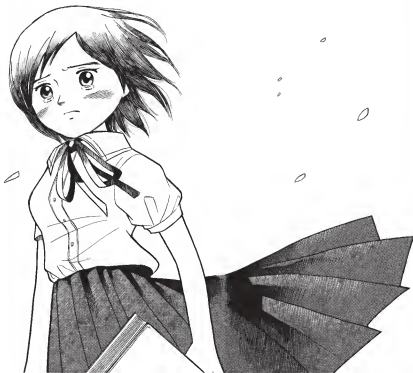
COULD GO  
UP THERE.

DAD,  
MR. SANO...

I WISH  
MISS SUZUNARI,  
MR. LION,

I WONDER WHY  
ALL GROWN-UPS

SMILE  
SO SADLY.

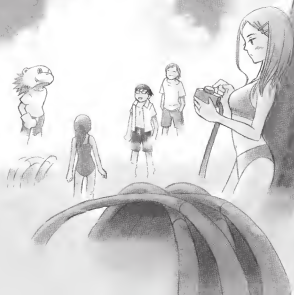






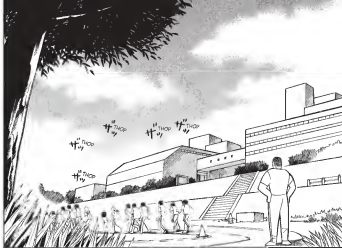


MISSION:12







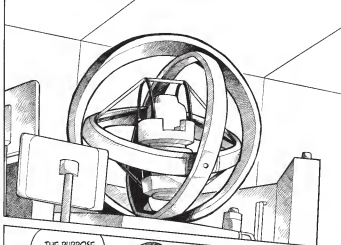












YOU'LL CONTINUE NEXT TERM.

THE PURPOSE IS TO DEVELOP YOUR EQUILIBRIUM IN A ZERO-G ENVIRONMENT.

キリッ  
NEW

WE'LL TAKE PLACE IN THE MAT, OR MULTI-AXIS TRAINER.

THE LAST STAGE FOR THE TERM.



AS YOU'RE SPINNING, A SIMPLE MATH PROBLEM WILL APPEAR ON THE LED SCREEN.



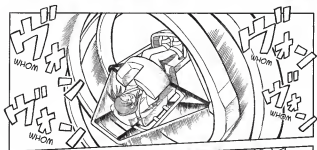
WOW!!

THIS IS WAY EASIER THAN BEING FORCED TO RUN COUNTLESS LAPS!



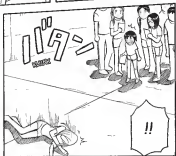
THERE WILL BE 10 QUESTIONS!

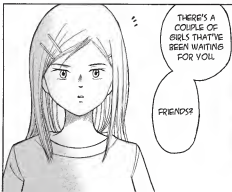
USE THE KEYPAD ON THE ARMREST TO ANSWER.

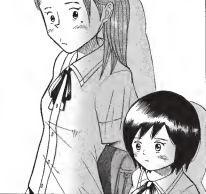


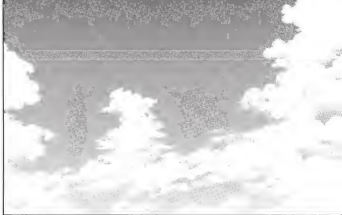


YOU'RE  
A GREAT  
RUNNER,  
TOO.

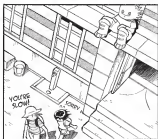






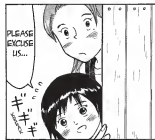
















LET  
ME  
GO  
!!





LET  
GO  
!!



LET  
GO  
!!

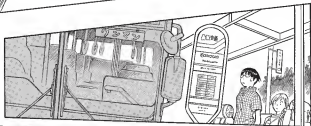
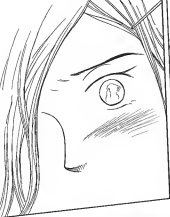


ド  
カッ



!!

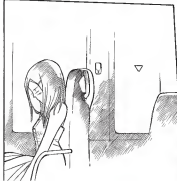
ド  
ス  
ッ



WHY THE HELL ARE THEY SO LATE?

THIS IS THE 5TH BUS TO GO BY!













IF YOU  
THINK OF  
THE MILKY  
WAY AS  
A RIVER,

AND  
SO

ON  
THE  
RIVER-  
BED,  
THUS  
...

PEBBLES

THEN  
ALL THE  
LITTLE  
STARS  
ARE  
LIKE  
SAND  
AND  
PEB  
...

I'D NEVER  
BEEN OUTSIDE  
OF THAT  
ROOM.

UNTIL  
THAT  
DAY

BUT IF I  
TRIED TO  
LEAVE,  
HE'D SCOLD  
ME TERRIBLY.

I DIDN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY,

ALWAYS  
THE SAME  
ROUTINE.

ALWAYS  
THE SAME  
ROOM.

I ALWAYS  
ATE  
ALONE.

3  
MEALS  
A DAY,  
AT THE  
SAME  
HOURS.

THE  
SAME  
TUTORS  
AT THE  
SAME  
HOURS.

M  
A  
T  
H

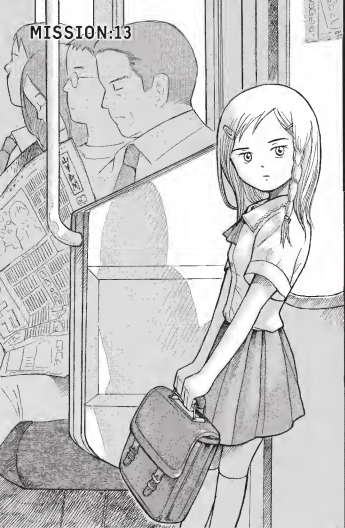
FROM THE SINGLE  
HIGH WINDOW IN  
THAT ROOM,

BUT

SLOWLY CHANGE  
THEIR POSITIONS  
EVERY NIGHT.

I COULD  
SEE THE  
STARS

MISSION:13





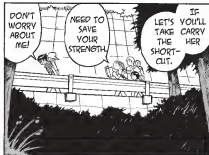
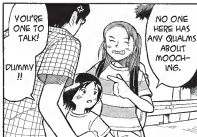


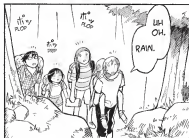












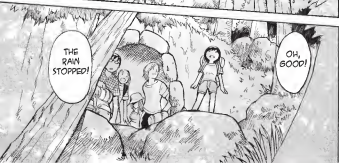


















I DIDN'T  
WANT TO GO  
ANYWHERE IN  
PARTICULAR.



I JUST  
WANTED TO  
RUN AWAY.



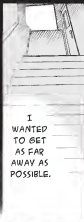
I JUST  
WANTED  
TO GET  
AWAY  
FROM  
THERE.



TO A PLACE  
FAR, FAR  
AWAY.



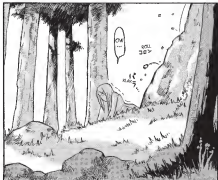
I  
WANTED  
TO GET  
AS FAR  
AWAY AS  
POSSIBLE.

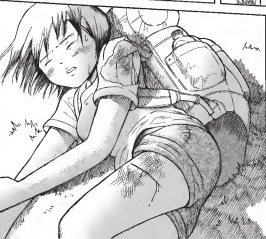
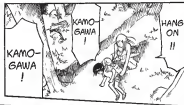
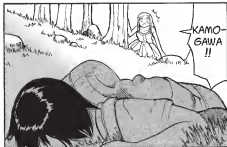












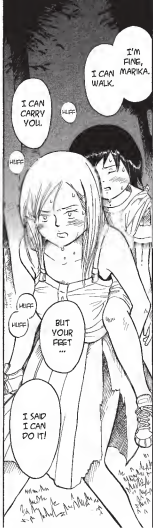


I  
WONDER  
WHICH  
WAY  
...



THAT  
SOUND!  
THE  
SAME  
AS...

!!



I CAN  
CARRY  
YOU.

HUFF

HUFF

I'M  
FINE,  
I CAN  
WALK.  
MARIKA.

HUFF

HUFF

BUT  
YOUR  
FEET  
...

I SAID  
I CAN  
DO IT!



I  
REALLY

EVEN IF  
NO ONE  
NOTICES,

NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
MY FEET  
HURT,

REALLY...

EVEN IF  
I'M  
ALONE,

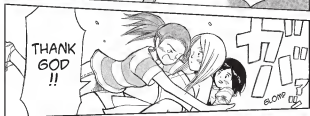
NO MATTER  
HOW SHORT  
OF BREATH,

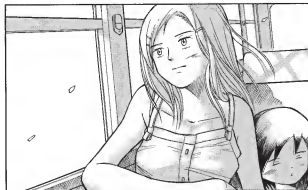
IT'S THE  
SAME AS  
THAT TIME  
...

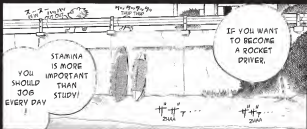








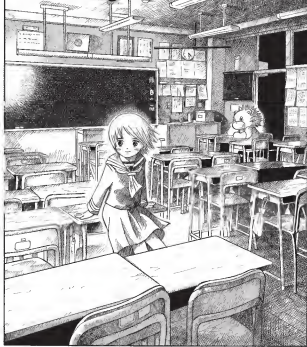




THIS  
HAPPENED  
A LONG,  
LONG TIME  
AGO...



# *Asumi's Cherry Blossoms*



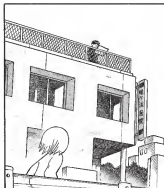






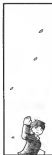






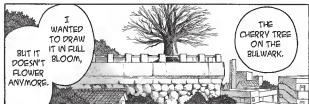


















THAT'S  
ME.



YOU SURE  
HAVE A LOT  
OF BOOKS  
ABOUT SPACE.



THEN I'LL  
BRING YOU  
SOMETHING  
NEW.

YUP!

WHAT  
?  
YOU'VE  
READ IT  
ALREADY?



I'VE BEEN  
HOSPITALIZED  
THERE SINCE  
I WAS LITTLE.

THE  
CORNER  
ROOM ON  
THE 2ND  
FLOOR.



NATURALLY  
I BECAME  
INTERESTED  
IN SPACE.

ALL I  
COULD SEE  
OUT THE  
WINDOW WAS  
THE SKY AND  
THE STARS.

I WAS  
BED-  
RIDDEN.

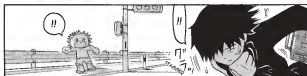


I WAS  
CURIOUS,  
SO I READ  
A LOT OF  
BOOKS.

"HOW BIG  
IS THE  
UNIVERSE?"  
"IS THE  
END OF THE  
UNIVERSE  
WHITE?  
BLACK?"



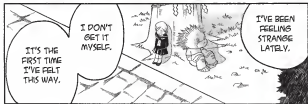


















I DIDN'T KNOW,  
BUT HE WAS  
SO SICK  
HE COULD  
HARDLY  
EVEN RUN.



HE SAID  
TO GIVE  
THIS TO  
YOU.

FINE,  
SHE'S A  
WEIRDO,  
BUT  
SHOULDN'T  
SHE AT  
LEAST CRY?

DON'T  
YOU THINK  
SHE'S BEING  
AWFULLY  
COLD?

HEY,

THE  
ANSWER  
IS...

...SO



I THINK IT'S  
COOL THAT  
YOU CAN  
SEE HIM.

ISN'T THE  
ASTRONAUT  
GHOST  
WITH YOU  
TODAY?



YEAH,  
AND ...

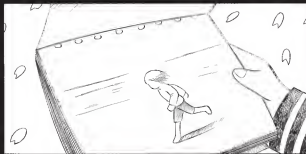
WHAT  
A  
BITCH.

DIDN'T  
SHE SAY  
SOMETHING  
MEAN TO  
HIM?

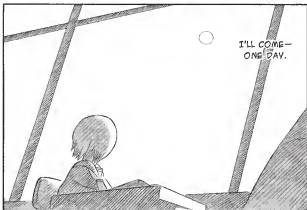




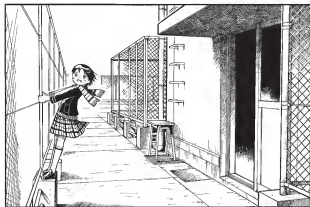








# ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA



STOP  
READING  
THAT CRAP  
DURING  
CLASS!

I longed for  
the fun  
school life  
shown in  
comic books.  
I was typical.



I didn't have  
any goals.  
I just went  
through the same  
daily routine.



We were said  
to embody  
an era of  
apathy.



It's not  
that I'm  
hung up  
on those  
days.



I settled on  
the art club,  
which met  
only once  
a week.



WHAT  
WE  
REALLY  
WANT~!

I'LL TEACH  
IT TO YOU  
LATER,  
YAGHIMA.

The wind  
ensemble had  
lots of girls.  
I lasted half  
a year.



I thought playing  
soccer might make  
me popular, but  
I quit right away...



WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT  
TO DO?

Not for  
the last  
time.

DUNO



Basically,  
I didn't  
care about  
my future.



I  
WANNA  
MAKE  
MOVIES!

But right  
before  
college  
exams,

I pulled  
a 180.



When I told my  
teacher I wanted  
to teach, he  
was thrilled.

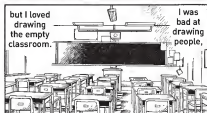
YAGHIMA  
I'M  
SO  
GLAD!

I WANT  
TO BE  
LIKE  
YOU!



The same  
went for  
my  
future.



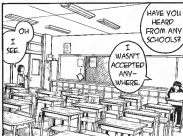




There were no more classes by then. Students only came to school to report their college exam results.



Winter, senior year.





there was a tiny inscription that

Shift  
Kou  
Yaginuma  
Kasumi  
Kamotani

I didn't recall writing.



Many winters later, I found that sketchbook stashed away in my room.



I wonder why such a trifling prank makes those dull days sparkle in my memory.



We were alone together in that empty classroom.

It makes my heart ache just slightly.

I think I understand a little better what she was talking about back then.



We don't belong there anymore.

The uniforms at my old school have changed.



## Notes on the Translation

### P. 23

The song "Look Up at the Stars at Night," from an eponymous musical, was covered in 1963 by Kyu Sakamoto of "Sukiyaki" fame. The song was chosen as the end theme of the animated TV series of *Twin Spica*.



### P. 127

The name on display is *Yagi Shinbun*. The latter word means "newspaper"; the former plays on the first half of the author's surname but is written with the character for "goat"—an animal known for its taste for paper.



### P. 163

The book is edited by a "Takashi Suwaribana," an allusion to leading journalist Takashi Tachibana (the character *tachi*, meaning "stand," has been replaced by the one for "sit"). He has authored acclaimed non-fiction books on astronauts, the cosmos, and numerous other subjects scientific and political.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno  
Maya Rosewood  
Christine Lee

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MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001

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No one ever said being part of the first astronaut class at the Tokyo Space School was going to be easy. The entire process has been a challenge for everyone involved. And grades are not all that matters.

### Praise for *Twin Spica*

"[Yaginuma]'s work fuses *Twin Spica* with both a sense of childhood nostalgia as well as encouragement to venture beyond. Replace 'space exploration' with the goal of your choosing and you have the recipe for an inspiring parable of progress... It's refreshingly divergent from the majority of the manga on shelves at the moment."—*Otaku USA*

"The storytelling is direct and simple without being didactic, filled with the kind of characters that younger readers will recognize and embrace as true to their own experiences. At the same time, however, *Twin Spica's* subtexts are rich enough to sustain an adult's interest... A beautiful, thought-provoking book for star gazers of all ages."—*The Manga Critic*

